

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     A handheld computer system, comprising:  
2                 a housing;  
3                 a display supported by the housing;  
4                 a processor coupled to the display;  
5                 a rechargeable battery configured to power the processor  
6     and the display;  
7                 a recharging connector coupled to the rechargeable battery;  
8                 a recharger coupled to the recharging connector; and  
9                 a radio frequency transceiver coupled to the processor and  
10    powerable by the battery when the battery has a charge above a  
11    predetermined low level, the transceiver configured to send and receive  
12    data while the battery charge is below the low level and the charger  
13    provides charge to the rechargeable battery and to the transceiver.
- 1           2.     The handheld computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
2    recharger is a recharging cradle.
- 1           3.     The handheld computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
2    recharger includes a recharger connector configured to couple to the  
3    recharging connector.
- 1           4.     The handheld computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
2    recharger is also a synchronization cradle.
- 1           5.     The handheld computer of claim 4, wherein the  
2    synchronization cradle includes an electrical connector that is configured  
3    to couple to the recharging connector.

1           6.     The handheld computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     electrical connector is configured to couple to a data connector on the  
3     handheld computer.

1           7.     A method of transmitting data over a radio frequency (RF)  
2     link from a handheld computer having a low battery charge, comprising:  
3                 providing the handheld computer with a rechargeable battery  
4     having a relatively low charge;  
5                 coupling the handheld computer to a recharger;  
6                 providing power from the charger to a transceiver of the  
7     handheld computer while the handheld computer is coupled to the  
8     recharger;  
9                 establishing an RF link using the transceiver.

1           8.     The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2                 providing power from the rechargeable battery to the  
3     transceiver.

1           9.     The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2                 coupling the handheld computer to a synchronization cradle,  
3     the synchronization cradle having a charger connector.

1           10.    The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2                 providing data across the RF link.

1           11.    The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2                 draining the rechargeable battery to a charge level at which  
3     the transceiver is unable to establish an RF link.

1           12.    The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2                 receiving an e-mail message.

1 13. The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 receiving a cellular telephone call.

1 14. A handheld computer, comprising:  
2 a housing;  
3 a display supported by the housing;  
4 a processor coupled to the display;  
5 a rechargeable battery configured to power the processor  
6 and the display;  
7 a recharging connector coupled to the rechargeable battery;  
8 and  
9 a radio frequency (RF) transceiver coupled to the processor  
10 and powerable by the battery when the battery has a charge above a  
11 predetermined low level, the transceiver configured to send and receive  
12 data while the battery charge is below the low level and the charging  
13 connector receives power from a power source and provides power to the  
14 rechargeable battery and to the transceiver.

1 15. The handheld computer of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 a computer program running on the processor, the computer  
3 program configured to request access to the RF transceiver.

1 16. The handheld computer of claim 15, wherein the computer  
2 program is an e-mail program.

1 17. The handheld computer of claim 15, wherein the computer  
2 program is an always-on e-mail program.

1 18. The handheld computer of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 an expansion connector coupled to the processor, the  
3 expansion connector configured to couple to memory devices.

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1           19. The handheld computer of claim 18, wherein the RF  
2 transceiver is coupled to the expansion connector.

1           20. A handheld computer, comprising:  
2               an expansion module including a rechargeable battery and a  
3 radio frequency (RF) transceiver, the battery configured to power the  
4 transceiver when the battery has a charge above a predetermined low  
5 level;

6               a processor;  
7               a display; and  
8               a module connector configured to couple to the expansion  
9 module,

10               wherein the RF transceiver is configured to send and receive  
11 data while the battery charge is below the low level and the module  
12 receives power from a power source and provides power to the  
13 rechargeable battery and to the transceiver.

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